

## **Karen Marie Lecke-Mitchell**

**Present Position:** Research Fishery Biologist GS-482-11/8, National Marine Fisheries Service, Mississippi Laboratory, 3209 Frederick Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567; Tel: 228-762-4591 ext. 283; fax: 228-769-9200; e-mail: Karen.Mitchell@noaa.gov.

**Education:** Walpole High School, Walpole, Massachusetts - Graduated June 1977  
Westfield State College, Westfield, Massachusetts 1977-1979  
Univ. of New England, Biddeford, Maine - Received B.S. in Marine Biology 1982.  
Univ. of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama 1985-1991.  
Completed at USA: three marine biology graduate courses  
eleven statistics courses  
six math courses  
two computer courses

**Professional Experience:** Research Fishery Biologist, 1990-Present. Responsibilities include planning, organizing and implementing research cruises aboard NOAA research vessels. Cruises include longline, trawl, and ichthyoplankton/marine mammal surveys in the Gulf of Mexico, western Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean. Other duties include analysis of trawl, gill net, aerial survey and tagging data. Develop graphics for use in presentations and reports. Proficient in SAS, WordPerfect, Microsoft Powerpoint, CorelDraw, Mapp and Surfer.

**Project Leader Red Snapper Longline Project 1999 to present:** Conducted several longline pilot surveys to determine whether longlining is a viable tool to assess the red snapper population in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Paper submitted to Northeast Gulf Science April 2001.

**Project Leader Red Drum Tagging Project 1997-1999:** The red drum tag and release project began in June 1997 and continued on until March 1999. In 1997, 9,733 red drum were tagged with either a belly or dorsal tag and in 1998 9,550 red drum were examined for tags. During the project, I was COTR for the charter purse seine vessel out of Port St. Joe, Florida. Responsibilities included coordinating all boats (one research vessel from the NMFS Lab used for "hotel" purposes) and the plane to search and tag red drum, scheduling of scientists and visiting personnel, loading equipment, groceries and scientific gear and handling the payment of the purse seine vessel and plane. At the conclusion of the project the data was presented to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in New Orleans, Louisiana in March 1999. The project was conducted as a request of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the results were to aid in assessing the red drum population and determine fishing quotas and limits for recreational and commercial fishermen.

**Principal Investigator Sea Turtle/Gill Net/Aerial Survey 1995:** Coordinated boat, plane and gill net work in several Louisiana bays to capture and/or locate sea turtles.

**Project Coordinator Sea Turtle Tagging Project 1991-1995:** Duties included purchasing a 58 ft shrimp boat and refitting it, COTR for the airplane contract which included keeping track of flight hours and schedule the plane when needed, hire a captain and deckhand, coordinate research activities (boat and plane) to collect sea turtles for tagging purposes and participate in tagging cruises.

**Compile and analyze aerial survey data:** Tasked with compiling aerial survey data collected by the NMFS, Pascagoula Laboratory from 1986 through 1997.

**Sea Turtle Stranding Coordinator:** Coordinates the pick up and dissemination of stranded sea turtles along the Mississippi coast and at times on the Alabama coast. When necessary, turtles are shipped to Miami for necropsy or live turtles are brought to appropriate facilities for rehabilitation. Pertinent data is sent along to the Mississippi Sea Turtle Stranding Coordinator and also to the Miami Laboratory stranding representative.

**Grand Bay National Estuarine and Research Reserve (NERR) Educational Committee:** Represent NMFS at NERR Educational Committee Meetings and recommends future educational activities and events at the NERR.

**Outreach Coordinator/Open House Coordinator:** Organize outreach activities such as classroom talks, Earth Day events, beach cleanups, environmental workshops, laboratory tours and other educational/environmental activities in the community. Lead on the Mississippi Laboratories Open House in October 2000 where over 900 students toured the lab and ships.

**Pascagoula Lab News Newsletter:** Lead on implementing a lab-wide newsletter to inform employees of research activities, meetings, scientific conferences and personal items of interest.

<b>Previous Employment:</b>	Fishery Biologist	June 1986 - January 1990
	National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula, Mississippi	
	Biological Technician	October 1982 - June 1986
	National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula, Mississippi	
	Biological Aid	June - September 1982
	National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula, Mississippi	

**Poster Presentations:**

Stuntz, W., K. Mitchell, and L. Bryant. 1995. A New Method of Radio Tracking Sea Turtles.. Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Richardson, J.I. and T.H. Richardson (Compilers). NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-361, 274 pp.

Mitchell, K., J. Peterson, and C. Roden. 1994. Sightings of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Bjorndal, K.A., A.B. Bolten, D.A. Johnson, and P.J. Eliazar (Compilers). NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-351, 323 pp.

Mitchell, K., W. Stuntz, and L. Bryant. 1994. Monitoring the behavior and movements of sea turtles through the use of radio tags in the north-central Gulf of Mexico. Bjorndal, K.A., A.B. Bolten, D.A. Johnson, and P.J. Eliazar (Compilers). Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-351, 323 pp.

Mullin, K., K. Mitchell, W. Hoggard, C. Roden, and C. Rogers. 1990. Distribution & Abundance of Large Floating Plastic in the north-central Gulf of Mexico. Presented at the America's Sea Symposium.

Ruple, D. & K. Mitchell. 1990. Marine Debris: An Elementary School Public Awareness Program. Presented at the America's Sea Symposium.

**Presentations:**

Mitchell, K. and T. Henwood. 1999. Estimate of the adult red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) population in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Presented to Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Mitchell, K., SMEACO, and the Gulf of Mexico Program. 1995. The Mississippi Environmental Workshop: Steering a Course to Environmental Education. Presented at the America's Sea Symposium.

Mitchell, K. & K. Mullin. 1995. Distribution and Abundance of Floating Debris in the Gulf of Mexico. Presented at the America's Sea Symposium.

**Publications:**

Mitchell, K. & T. Henwood. 2001. Longline Gear as an Assessment Tool for Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) in Offshore Waters of the Northern Gulf of Mexico. In Press.

Mitchell, K. & K. Mullin. 1997. Floating Marine Debris in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Mar. Pollut. Bull., Vol. 34, . 9, pp. 702-705.

Mitchell, K. & K. Mullin. 1992. Distribution and Abundance of Large Floating Plastic in the north-central Gulf of Mexico. Mar. Pollut. Bull., Vol. 24, 12, pp. 598-601.

Mitchell, K. & M. Grace. 1992. Do Your Share to Show You Care Activity Book. Printed by GPO.

**Reports:**

Delaware II Cruise Report 84-05/Groundfish Survey	Chief Scientist	June 1984
Oregon II Cruise Report 149/Ichthyoplankton Survey	Chief Scientist	November 1984
Oregon II Cruise Report 152/Ichthyoplankton Survey	Chief Scientist	May 1985
Oregon II Cruise Report 157/Butterfish Trawl Survey	Chief Scientist	December 1985
Oregon II Cruise Report 159/Ichthyoplankton Survey	Chief Scientist	April 1986
Chapman Cruise Report 88-06 (27)/Tuna Longline Survey	Chief Scientist	August 1988
Oregon II Cruise Report 187/Marine Mammal-Ichthyoplankton Survey	Chief Scientist	May 1990
Oregon II Cruise Report 215/Marine Mammal Survey	Chief Scientist	January 1995
Caretta Cruise Report Sea Turtle/Gill Net/Aerial Survey Study	Principal Investigator	July 1995
Red Drum Interim Report	Project Leader	January 1998
Red Drum Final Report	Project Leader	January 1999
Ferrel Red Snapper Cruise Report	Chief Scientist	May 1999
Gordon Gunter Red Snapper Cruise Report	Chief Scientist	June 2000
Oregon II Red Snapper Cruise Report	Chief Scientist	December 2000
Tommy Munro Groundfish Cruise Report	Chief Scientist	July 2001

**Organizations:**

Southern Mississippi Environmental & Agricultural Coordination Organization (SMEACO)  
1992 - Present  
Member of Planning Committee for SMEACO Environmental Workshop 1994-Present  
Mississippi Marine Trash Task Force (MMTTF)-Organize Mississippi Beach Cleanup 1989-Present  
EPA Gulf of Mexico Program - Marine Debris Subcommittee 1989-1996

**Grants:**

Received \$8,000.00 grant from the Marine Entanglement Research Program and a \$7,000.00 grant from the Gulf of Mexico Program to analyze GOMEX and GulfCet aerial survey marine debris data. Draft paper sent to *Marine Pollution Bulletin* and accepted February 1997.

Received \$5,000.00 grant from the Marine Entanglement Research Program to fund the printing of the activity book.

**Awards & Achievements:**

Cash Award for Groundfish Cruise July 2001  
Bronze Medal Award - October 2000 - Red Drum Tagging Project  
Cash Award for Open House Coordinator October 2000  
Federal Women's Program Manager for the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region 7/85-11/86  
Cash Award for Participating in Cleanup Activities after Hurricane Elena 1985  
Member of Outstanding Young Women of America 1984

**References:**

Immediate Supervisor:	Dr. Chris Gledhill, NMFS, Pascagoula, Miss	1-228-762-4591
Supervisor:	Dr. Terry Henwood, NMFS, Pascagoula, Miss	1-228-762-4591